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LETTER DATED 22 DECEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been asked to convey to you the following by Mr. Alija Izetbegović, President of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Yasushi Akashi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, came to see President Izetbegović this morning. The major basis of his visit was to seek the demilitarization of the Bihać and potentially other safe areas. President Izetbegović offered that we would be willing to consider this on a case-by-case basis as long as the United Nations and other relevant forces were willing and in a position to guarantee the safety and defence of the safe areas in question.

Mr. Akashi indicated that they were not in a position to undertake this responsibility, but that any attack upon the safe areas would be condemned in the strongest terms by the international community. President Izetbegović responded that the Government had the responsibility to defend the territorial integrity, sovereignty and population of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the safe areas, and that we were not prepared to consider relinquishing this responsibility unless the United Nations and other relevant forces were willing and in a position to assume such responsibility.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

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